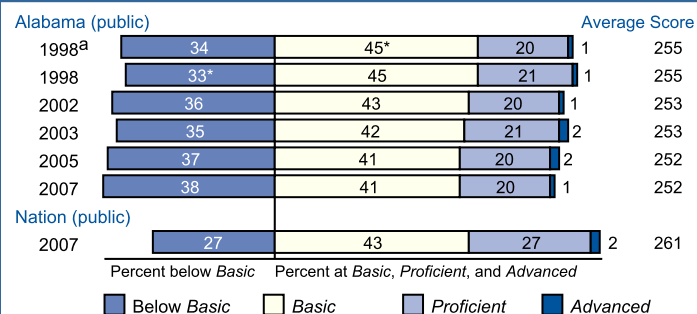


The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) assesses reading in three content areas in grade 8: reading for literary experience, to gain information, and to perform a task. The NAEP reading scale ranges from 0 to 500.

Overall Reading Results for Alabama

- In 2007, the average scale score for eighth-grade students in Alabama was 252. This was not significantly different from their average score in 2005 (252) and was not significantly different from their average score in 1998 (255).¹
- Alabama's average score (252) in 2007 was lower than that of the nation's public schools (261).
- Of the 52 states and other jurisdictions that participated in the 2007 eighth-grade assessment, students' average scale score in Alabama was higher than that in 1 jurisdiction, not significantly different from those in 7 jurisdictions, and lower than those in 43 jurisdictions.²
- The percentage of students in Alabama who performed at or above the NAEP *Proficient* level was 21 percent in 2007. This percentage was not significantly different from that in 2005 (22 percent) and was not significantly different from that in 1998 (22 percent).
- The percentage of students in Alabama who performed at or above the NAEP *Basic* level was 62 percent in 2007. This percentage was not significantly different from that in 2005 (63 percent) and was smaller than that in 1998 (67 percent).

Percentages at NAEP Achievement Levels and Average Score



^a Accommodations were not permitted for this assessment.

NOTE: The NAEP grade 8 reading achievement levels correspond to the following scale points: Below Basic, 242 or lower; Basic, 243–280; Proficient, 281–322; Advanced, 323 or above.

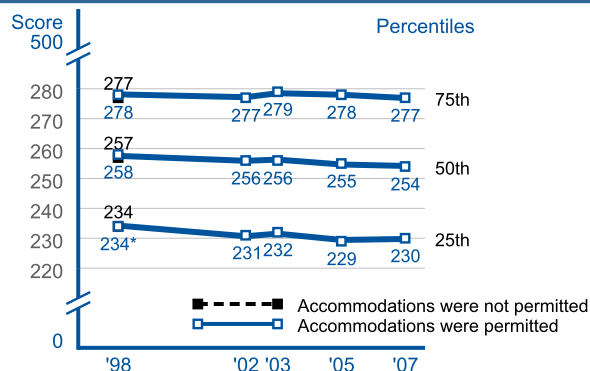
Performance of NAEP Reporting Groups in Alabama: 2007

Reporting groups	Percent of students	Average score	Percent below Basic	Percent of students at or above		Percent Advanced
				Basic	Proficient	
Male	50	247	43	57	18	1
Female	50	257	33	67	25	2
White	60	261	27	73	29	2
Black	36	236	57	43	9	#
Hispanic	3	250	39	61	20	1
Asian/Pacific Islander	1	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
American Indian/Alaska Native	#	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
Eligible for National School Lunch Program	49	241	50	50	11	#
Not eligible for National School Lunch Program	51	263	25	75	31	2

Average Score Gaps Between Selected Groups

- In 2007, male students in Alabama had an average score that was lower than that of female students by 10 points. In 1998, the average score for male students was lower than that of female students by 11 points.
- In 2007, Black students had an average score that was lower than that of White students by 26 points. In 1998, the average score for Black students was lower than that of White students by 28 points.
- In 2007, Hispanic students had an average score that was lower than that of White students by 12 points. Data are not reported for Hispanic students in 1998, because reporting standards were not met.
- In 2007, students who were eligible for free/reduced-price school lunch, a proxy for poverty, had an average score that was lower than that of students who were not eligible for free/reduced-price school lunch by 22 points. In 1998, the average score for students who were eligible for free/reduced-price school lunch was lower than the score of those not eligible by 24 points.
- In 2007, the score gap between students at the 75th percentile and students at the 25th percentile was 47 points. In 1998, the score gap between students at the 75th percentile and students at the 25th percentile was 44 points.

Reading Scores at Selected Percentiles



NOTE: Scores at selected percentiles on the NAEP reading scale indicate how well students at lower, middle, and higher levels performed.

Rounds to zero.

‡ Reporting standards not met.

* Significantly different from 2007.

↑ Significantly higher than 2005. ↓ Significantly lower than 2005.

¹ Comparisons (higher/lower/narrower/wider/not different) are based on statistical tests. The .05 level was used for testing statistical significance. Statistical comparisons are calculated on the basis of unrounded scale scores or percentages. Comparisons across jurisdictions and comparisons with the nation or within a jurisdiction across years may be affected by differences in exclusion rates for students with disabilities (SD) and English language learners (ELL). The exclusion rates for SD and ELL in Alabama were 3 percent and "percentage rounds to zero" in 2007, respectively. For more information on NAEP significance testing see <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/reading/interpret-results.asp#statistical>.

² "Jurisdictions" refers to states and the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense Education Activity schools.

NOTE: Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding and because the "Information not available" category for the National School Lunch Program, which provides free and reduced-price lunches, and the "Unclassified" category for race/ethnicity are not displayed. Visit <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/states/> for additional results and detailed information.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), various years, 1998–2007 Reading Assessments.